



Quick Guide to Open Space Technology

Open Space Technology was founded by Harrison Owen in 1983. Passion and responsibility are at the heart of Open Space Technology. Passion and responsibility are also the two keys to any successful meeting. Without passion, enthusiasm for an idea will soon wane, and without responsibility, there is risk that the ideas will never move forward. Used the world over, Open Space Technology is exceptionally suited to complex problems requiring innovation, problem solving, creativity, teamwork, and rapid change.

<p>Open Space Technology is appropriate for any organizational or business situation in which there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A real issue of concern • Diversity of players • Complexity of elements • Presence of passion (conflict is an element of passion) • Decision time is now 	<p>Open Space Technology is not appropriate when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific outcomes are predetermined • Existing leadership is not willing to make changes as a result of an event
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Some key preparations for Open Space Technology include:

- Articulating the theme or question that reveals the real issue of concern
- Sending out the invitation with the theme
- Making time: At a minimum Open Space Technology requires a half-day
- Making space: Venue preparations:
 - A circle of chairs, no tables
 - Plenty of wall space for the emerging market place of topics raised by participants in response to the invitation
 - Spaces for break-out sessions

